

# Cover Sheet: Request 11090

## ITW3XXX Boccaccio's Decameron

### Info

Process	Course New Ugrad/Pro
Status	Pending
Submitter	Amberson, Deborah dambers@ufl.edu
Created	9/7/2016 1:11:19 PM
Updated	9/29/2016 9:09:25 AM
Description of request	Analysis of Giovanni Boccaccio's canonical Decameron with a focus on the literary dimension of text as well as the political, historical, and religious context in which the work was written.

### Actions

Step	Status	Group	User	Comment	Updated
Department	Approved	CLAS - Languages, Literatures and Cultures 011686001	Amberson, Deborah		9/7/2016
Deleted 1. ITW 3XXX Boccaccio Course Proposal Syllabus.docx					9/7/2016
College	Recycled	CLAS - College of Liberal Arts and Sciences	Pharies, David A	This course has been conditionally approved. No syllabus is required for this submission, so it should be removed from the submission. Under "rationale", change "essential" to "desirable". Under "Classroom policies", change "lower limit" to "upper limit". Under "course requirements", change "1% of the homework preparation grade" to "1% of the final grade". Put comma after "student preparation is as it should be" Some elements are missing from 'Classroom Policies'. See guide at <a href="http://www.aa.ufl.edu/sylla">http://www.aa.ufl.edu/sylla</a> policy.	9/27/2016
No document changes					
Department	Approved	CLAS - Languages, Literatures and Cultures 011686001	Amberson, Deborah		9/27/2016
No document changes					
College	Approved	CLAS - College of Liberal Arts and Sciences	Pharies, David A		9/29/2016
No document changes					

<b>Step</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Group</b>	<b>User</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Updated</b>
University Curriculum Committee	Pending	PV - University Curriculum Committee (UCC)			9/29/2016
No document changes					
Statewide Course Numbering System					
No document changes					
Office of the Registrar					
No document changes					
Student Academic Support System					
No document changes					
Catalog					
No document changes					
College Notified					
No document changes					

## Course|New for request 11090

### Info

**Request:** ITW3XXX Boccaccio's Decameron

**Description of request:** Analysis of Giovanni Boccaccio's canonical Decameron with a focus on the literary dimension of text as well as the political, historical, and religious context in which the work was written.

**Submitter:** Amberson, Deborah dambers@ufl.edu

**Created:** 11/7/2016 2:26:37 PM

**Form version:** 4

### Responses

**Recommended Prefix**ITW

**Course Level** 3

**Number** XXX

**Category of Instruction** Intermediate

**Lab Code** None

**Course Title**Boccaccio's Decameron

**Transcript Title**Boccaccio's Decameron

**Degree Type**Baccalaureate

**Delivery Method(s)**On-Campus

**Effective Term** Earliest Available

**Effective Year**Earliest Available

**Rotating Topic?**No

**Repeatable Credit?**No

**Amount of Credit**3

**S/U Only?**No

**Contact Type** Regularly Scheduled

**Weekly Contact Hours** 3

**Course Description** Analysis of Giovanni Boccaccio's canonical Decameron with a focus on the literary dimension of text as well as the political, historical, and religious context in which the work was written.

**Prerequisites** ITA2221 or equivalent

**Co-requisites** None

**Rationale and Placement in Curriculum** Boccaccio's Decameron is one of the foundational texts of Italian literature. As such it constitutes a course that is desirable for students completing a major in Italian studies and an important elective for those completing the minor. While the text has been taught in the past with other medieval literary texts, formalizing a stand-alone Boccaccio will greatly benefit our students. The course will also enhance students' critical thinking skills and knowledge of the disciplinary norms of the literary humanities as they work with texts drawn from the body of Boccaccio scholarship.

**Course Objectives** By the end of the semester it is expected that students will:

- have acquired an in depth knowledge of Boccaccio's Decameron to be assessed by final exam
- understand the historical and socio-political context of the composition of the text, specifically the Bubonic plague of 1348 to be assessed by exam
- be able to engage critically with Boccaccio's work and with a sampling of the scholarship generated by the text to be assessed by written assignments and exam
- be equipped to give a required scholarly presentation in Italian on the historical

and literary material discussed

**Course Textbook(s) and/or Other Assigned Reading** Boccaccio, Giovanni.  
Decameron. Ed. Vittore Branca. Milan: Mondadori, 1985.

The following critical readings are available electronically:

Edith G. Kern, "The Gardens in the Decameron Cornice," *PMLA*, 66.4 (1951): 505-523.

Jessica Levenstein "Out of Bounds: Passion & the Plague in Boccaccio's Decameron,"  
*Italica*, 73.3 (1996): 313-335.

Allen, Shirley S., "Griselda Tale & the Portrayal of Women in the Decameron," *Philological Quarterly*, 1977, 56: 1-13

### **Weekly Schedule of Topics**

Course Calendar: Boccaccio's Decameron

#### Week 1

Watch: "The Black Death," <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9qsuE9ITBOg>

Look: Breughel's "Triumph of Death," <http://vintageprintable.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/Medical-Death-Bruegel-The-Triumph-of-Death.jpg>

#### Week 2

Reading: Decameron, Proemio, Prima Giornata (Introduzione)

Article: Edith G. Kern, "The Gardens in the Decameron Cornice," *PMLA*, 66.4 (1951): 505-523. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/459490>

Explore: Santa Maria Novella: <http://www.chiesasantamarianovella.it/en>

<http://www.chiesasantamarianovella.it/en/all-works-art>

Writing: First "Reading summary" due by 4 pm Friday

#### Week 3

Reading: Decameron, Prima Giornata, Novelle 1-10

Writing: "Reading summary" due by 4 pm Friday

#### Week 4

Reading: Decameron, Seconda Giornata, Novelle 1-10

Writing: "Reading summary" due by 4 pm Friday

#### Week 5

Reading: Decameron, Terza Giornata, Novelle 1-10

Writing: "Reading summary" due by 4 pm Friday

#### Week 6

Reading: Decameron, Quarta Giornata, Novelle 1-10

Article: Jessica Levenstein "Out of Bounds: Passion & the Plague in Boccaccio's Decameron," *Italica*, 73.3 (1996): 313-335. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/479828>

Writing: "Reading summary" due by 4 pm Friday

#### Week 7

Reading: Decameron, Quinta Giornata, Novelle 1-10

Writing: "Reading summary" due by 4 pm Friday

#### Week 8

Reading: Decameron, Sesta Giornata, Novelle 1-10

Writing: "Reading summary" due by 4 pm Friday

#### Week 9

Reading: Decameron, Settima Giornata, Novelle 1-10

Writing: "Reading summary" due by 4 pm Friday

#### Week 10

Reading: Decameron, Ottava Giornata, Novelle 1-10

Writing: "Reading summary" due by 4 pm Friday

#### Week 11

Reading: Decameron, Nona Giornata, Novelle 1-10

Writing: "Reading summary" due by 4 pm Friday

#### Week 12

Reading: Decameron, Decima Giornata, Novelle 1-10

Article: Allen, Shirley S., "Griselda Tale & the Portrayal of Women in the Decameron,"  
Philological Quarterly, 1977, 56: 1-13 (E-learning)

Look: Lisa & Perdicone miniature. Dec. 10.7, Paris, early 14th c., Biblioteca Apostolica  
Vaticana, Pal. Lat. 1989, fol. 304r.

<http://publishing.cdlib.org/ucpressebooks/view?docId=ft1d5nb0d9&doc.view=popup&fig.ent=http://pub>

Writing: "Reading summary" due by 4 pm Friday

#### Week 13

Reading: Decameron, Conclusione dell'autore

Writing: Last "reading summary" due by 4pm Friday

#### Week 14

Review and preparation for final take home exam

#### Week 15

Conclusions

#### **Links and Policies** CLASSROOM POLICIES:

Attendance & Makeup policy: Attendance is mandatory and will be assessed by roll call. Students will lose 1% from their final grade for each unexcused absence. There is no upper limit for the unexcused penalty absence. If you do not attend class, you should not expect to do well in this class. Absences will be excused in accordance with UF policy.

Acceptable excuses include illness, religious holidays, & military obligation:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>. Should you miss a class for any reason, you are responsible for informing yourself as to the material covered. Except in the case of certified illness or other UF accepted excuse, there will be no make-up option for missed exams/assignments. Where possible, make-ups should be arranged prior to absence. Alternatively, students should contact me on their return to classes. In the case of an excused absence, students can also receive make-up credit for homework preparation by coming to office hours to discuss the assigned readings. Here they will be asked some basic questions concerning the characters, plot, and settings of the relevant readings.

Lateness: If a student is late, he or she will have to sign the roll after the class. Such lateness distracts other students and the instructor and will affect the student's final participation grade. Three late arrivals will count as one unexcused absence.

#### GRADING SCALE (& GPA equivalent):

A = 95-100% (4); A- = 90-94% (3.67); B+ = 85-89% (3.33); B = 80-84% (3.0); B- = 75-79% (2.67); C+ = 70-74% (2.33); C = 65-69% (2.0); C- = 60-64% (1.67); D+ = 55-59% (1.33); D = 50-54% (1.0); D- = 45-49% (0.67); E = 40-44% (0)

Note: A grade of C- is not a qualifying grade for major, minor, Gen Ed, or College Basic distribution credit. For further information on UF's Grading Policy, see:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>;

<https://student.ufl.edu/minusgrades.html>

Grade Disputes: Should a student wish to dispute any grade received in this class (other

than simple addition errors), the dispute must be in writing and be submitted to the instructor within a week of receiving the grade. The dispute should set out very clearly, the grade that the student believes the assignment should have received as well as why he or she believes that he or she should have received such a grade.

**Academic Honesty:** Students are required to be honest in their coursework, may not use notes during quizzes or exams, and must properly cite all sources that they have consulted for their projects. Any act of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of Students, and may result in failure of assignment and/or course. For University of Florida's honor code, see <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/honorcode.php>.

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities** Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Contact the Disability Resources Center (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>) for information about available resources.

**Counseling & Mental Health Resources:** Students facing difficulties completing the course or who are in need of counseling or urgent help should call the on-campus Counseling and Wellness Center (352-392-1575; <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/>).

**Online Course Evaluations:** Students are expected to provide feedback on quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. Evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>.

**Grading Scheme COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

**1. Class Participation & Homework Preparation (15%):**

Homework assignments involve, for the most part, reading. You should carry out this work in a concentrated manner, taking notes and jotting down your questions and uncertainties while you read. When you come to class, you should be ready to speak, argue, ask questions, and engage with the opinions of your classmates. Some of the selected readings are quite difficult and will be elaborated in class. Despite these difficulties students should do their best to decipher these texts at home prior to in-class discussion. All assigned readings should be completed by the first class of the week. To ensure that student preparation is as it should be, each week will begin with some very basic questions on the reading (characters, plot, setting). If you are unable to answer these questions, I will assume that you have not prepared the homework and will dock you 1% of the final grade. You will lose 1% on each occasion that you prove unable to answer these basic questions.

In addition to the preparation of reading homework, student in-class participation is expected. Classes will not be simply a reiteration or summary of the novelle, but students are expected to know the stories in question and to be prepared to discuss in class their content and the related literary and/or socio-historical issues they raise. It is expected that each student will contribute at least four times per week to our in class discussion with comments that reflect intelligently on our readings. In effect, your participation will be judged both quantitatively and qualitatively.

**2. Reading Summaries (40%):** Each week students will summarize the assigned portions of the Decameron and any additional assigned readings. These summaries must be submitted electronically on the dates indicated on the course calendar. The summaries (no more than 4 pages in length) should include the content and argument set out in the readings and article in question. Further details will be provided in class before the first summary is due. The summaries should be handed in electronically each week by 4pm on Friday. No credit will be given for summaries submitted late unless a UF accepted excuse is provided.

3. Presentation (20%): Each student will be asked to prepare and deliver an oral presentation of 10-15 minutes on a particular historical or contextual aspect of the week's assigned reading. Students will be assigned a date and a specific topic following the drop/add date once the number of students in the class is finalized.

4. Final Exam (25%): The final comprehensive take home examination will be in the form of several long answer questions that will address issues discussed in class, assigned readings, and the text itself (Decameron) from the beginning of the semester until the end. Students will be given 48 hours to complete the exam, which will be administered during exam week.

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**Instructor(s)** Dr. Mary Watt